



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mrs. Maxine B. Russell

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore
Maxine B. Russell

Excused Absence

Frank S. Bacio
Vito Cannella

Others Present

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Russell, and unanimously carried, the December 14, 2005 meeting minutes were approved, as presented.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano wished Commissioners and staff a Happy New Year. She noted that this was the most peaceful New Year's Eve she has ever experienced in her neighborhood. There was only one round of gunshots fired throughout the whole evening instead of the usual sun-down to sun-up barrage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This item was deferred to the next agenda.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Sherry Scates, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- No update on the status of the Cleo's Home for Retarded Children has been received from the Auditor-Controller's office;
- No response has been received from County Counsel on the proposed language change to the Commission's Ordinance;
- A very nice letter was received from Tierra Del Sol Foundation thanking the Commission for their donation, made for Commissioner Cannella, which will benefit disabled adults;
- Photos of Chair Montano and Staff Member Scates preparing 120 Christmas gift bags of personal grooming items for Probation Camp Scott were shared; and
- Copies were shared of a recent Management Audit of the Probation Department, performed by an outside audit firm, which listed over 100 areas needing improvement.

Vice Chair Stathatos noted that reports such as this one for Probation are done routinely for other County departments and one never knows if or when the suggested improvements are made. She would like to see any follow-up reports about this matter.

REVIEW AND COMMENT ON YEAR-END REPORT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chair Stathatos, and unanimously carried, the Commission accepted Commissioner Russell's Year-End Report to the Board of Supervisors. It will be converted to a Board acceptable format and the changes discussed will be made.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

The Sycamores- #105-1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 12, 2005 and found no areas of concern noted or reported.

The Sycamores- #105-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 8, 2005 and found no areas of concern noted or reported.

L.A. Youth Network/Taft House - #61-2

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 29, 2005 and noted the conditions are much improved since the last inspection on July 18, 2005. No areas of concern were noted or reported. Commissioners noted that facility staff is still improving the yards and there is a new person in charge of Taft and daily supervision.

L.A. Youth Network/Beachwood - #61-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 26, 2005 and found no areas of concern noted or reported.

Bienvenidos Children's Center - #6-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on December 22, 2005 and found that it no longer works as a group home. They are now a week-end respite care facility for foster children 0-8 years old whose foster parents need a break for 48 hours. The children's care is paid for by money raised by Bienvenidos and not by any L.A. County agency.

Arrowhead Emancipation Program - #2-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 15, 2005 and found that conditions are much improved since the last inspection on July 2005. No areas of concern were noted or reported.

Five Acres/Solita Group Home - #42-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 30, 2005 and found no areas of concern noted or reported.

Altadena Sheriff's Station

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on December 19, 2005 and noted that though the facility itself was well-kept and organized by only three trustees. Central Jail consistently sends twice as much food as needed. Commissioners noted that large quantities of canned goods and toys has been collected and was being readied for distribution to the needy.

Dubnoff Center/Claybourn - #31-1

Commissioner Russell visited this facility on December 19, 2005 and found no one at home; therefore, no inspection was conducted. Commissioner Russell noted that she had intended to re-interview Paul Casias, a resident who had taken the ILP classes in February 2005. He is doing better in school, but that, he still has not received his \$100 check. She further noted that she called Deputy Charney's office to update him and spoke to Ms. Cogan, who has left messages for Ms. Cynthia Holms, ILP Outreach Adviser, who has not returned Ms. Cogan's calls. Commissioner Russell told resident Casias that she would stay on top of this issue until he receives his check.

West Covina Group Home/Loma Vista - #111-2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on December 15, 2005. They observed the following areas of concerns: outside window screen is twisted; one seat belt on van was broken; first aid kit needs to be restocked; and fire extinguisher needs to be recharged. The Needs and Services Plans need to be updated. Commissioners noted there was a suicidal youth that hears voices, but that he would be transferred shortly.

T & T Home for Boys - #102-2

Chair Montano inspected this facility on December 19, 2005. She observed the following areas of concern: kitchen sink cabinet was broken, the Individual Rights and the Daily Activities Schedule were not posted, and the AC/FA vents need to be cleaned. The first aid kit needs to be restocked. Chair Montano noted that each resident was given \$50 to buy a Christmas gift of their choice.

C & R/Masada/Orleans House - #21-2

Chair Montano inspected this facility on December 20, 2005 and found the facility has been closed by the owners because of a death in the family.

Bright Future Youth Center #1/Mesa - #8-3

Chair Montano inspected this facility on December 21, 2005 and found no areas of concern observed or reported.

Dream Home Care #1/Elm - #29-3

Chair Montano inspected this facility on December 27, 2005 and noted the Needs and Services Plans needed to be updated. Chair Montano noted there were Christmas carols sung and that each resident told what their favorite thing about the home was and the food took the top honors. They made a contest

out of it and whoever said the best thing about the home would receive \$20. All the residents were very positive and all received \$20.

Dream Home Care#3/Gaviota - #30-1

Chair Montano inspected this facility on December 29, 2005 and noted the following areas of concern: Needs and Services Plans need to be updated and first aid kit needs to be restocked.

Dream Home Care #1/Gardenia - #29-2

Chair Montano inspected this facility on December 29, 2005 and no areas of concern were noted or reported.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano gave out inspection assignments to Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m., in memory of the lives lost in the Tallmansville, Virginia coal mine disaster and those who were killed in traffic accidents over the holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates

Commission Services Staff